

# The Buzz



WEST VIRGINIA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

*WVSU Alumni and Friends eNewsletter*

*June/July 2016*



*WVSU is proud to help W.Va. flood victims and host American Red Cross volunteers as they bring relief.*

## Upcoming Events

- July 2 **Houston Alumni Chapter Annual Picnic & Membership Drive**, *Houston, Texas*
- July 7 **Alumni & Friends Reception for President Jenkins**, *Institute, W.Va.*
- July 22 **Raleigh-Durham Alumni Chapter Annual Fish Fry**, *Durham, N.C.*
- July 23 **Raleigh-Durham Alumni Chapter Annual Cook-Out**, *Durham, N.C.*
- July 30 **Atlanta Chapter Alumni Picnic**, *Atlanta, Ga.*

## Headlines and Announcements

- June 29 - WVSU Commercial wins National Telly Award, *WVSU*
- June 22 - WVSU Extension Service sponsoring garlic workshop July 9, *WVSU*
- June 21 - WV State Students, Professor recognized for public relations work, *WVSU*
- May 30 - Summer camp provides hands-on STEM learning for students, *Herald-Dispatch*

## A Message from President Anthony L. Jenkins

On behalf of my wife, Toinette, and our daughters, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the outpouring of support and the warm welcome we have received from the Yellow Jacket Nation since May. I am also moved by the State family's commitment to one another as well as the greater Kanawha Valley community. This commitment was so abundantly evident through the outstanding amount of donated cleaning supplies, non-perishable food and needed items to assist individuals and families impacted by the recent flood. As I stated at the announcement of my appointment as the 11th President of West Virginia State University, I am humbled to lead this fine institution that has profoundly changed thousands of lives through education and outreach over the past 125 years.

As we begin our work together and make the most of the opportunities before us, I want to reassure each of you that our trajectory is north, our pace is brisk and our commitment to a student-centered, quality education shall never waiver. I am committed to continue the momentum our students, faculty, staff and administration, have worked so hard to achieve in recent years. Our dedication to shared governance and fiscal responsibility will be vital to reach the University's most prosperous days. Despite any challenges that lie ahead, our use of innovative teaching and applied research to support the economic development and higher education needs of the state and region, will always remain a top priority.

Make no mistake, West Virginia State University is where students find their passion; where exceptional faculty provide students with a world-class quality education; where staff strive for excellence every day; and where our alumni and community partners generously invest in the next generation of Yellow Jackets. Our legacy as a land-grant institution and historically Black university, shall continue as we provide students with limitless opportunities that enables them to grow, flourish and become leaders who will change the world.

To new and returning faculty and staff, thank you for your dedication to our students, mission and collective vision so clearly defined in the strategic plan *Vision 2020: State's Roadmap to the Future*. To our students, both new and returning, I look forward to meeting you and developing partnerships with you that will foster an environment that enhances your college experience and overall success.

Yellow Jacket Nation, as we forge our pathway forward, please join me in building upon our historic 125 years of service to the Kanawha Valley, the state, the region and beyond. Again, thank you for your warm welcome and well wishes, and I look forward to seeing you around campus.

Go State!  
Anthony L. Jenkins, Ph.D.  
President



*Dr. Anthony L. Jenkins, 11th President of  
West Virginia State University*



# WVSU Shows Support After Devastating Floods in W.Va.

## University accepting donations to assist flood victims, providing support for emergency volunteers

In response to the devastating flood which has impacted communities throughout the state, West Virginia State University joined with Mountain Mission, a local non-profit agency, to collect flood relief items such as cleaning supplies, non-perishable food and drinking water for victims earlier this week. Thanks to the generosity of members of the State Family, the University has sent a large donation of cleaning supplies and non-perishable food items to help those families and individuals in need, including members of our own campus community.

The West Virginia State University Foundation is also accepting monetary donations which will be used to support community flood relief efforts and to assist members of the State family who have been affected by the recent flooding. If you would like more information regarding this opportunity to assist flood victims, please visit [connect.wvstateu.edu/floodrelief](http://connect.wvstateu.edu/floodrelief) or call (304)766-3021.

The University is currently hosting more than 80 American Red Cross volunteers over the weekend as they work throughout the impacted areas. West Virginia State is truly an amazing family with a broad reach, able to make a monumental difference for many. Thank you to the countless individuals and groups who have provided much needed supplies as well as donations for the flood victims.



*Supplies donated by members of the State Family to assist with flood relief.*

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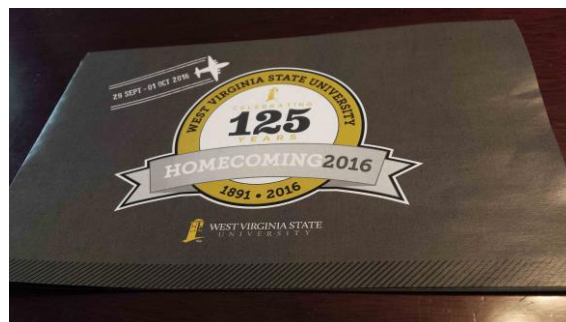
## Register Now for Homecoming 2016

### Online registration for Homecoming 2016 events now open

Homecoming at West Virginia State University is unlike any other...it's a time to reconnect and reminisce with old friends as well as stay connected with the "place we love so dear." If you have not returned to campus recently, it is truly a must see. The positive growth is remarkable and although there have been many changes to the campus, the traditions of State remain ever close to our hearts.

For an updated list of 2016 Homecoming events and to register, please visit [connect.wvstateu.edu/homecoming](http://connect.wvstateu.edu/homecoming). Please note that room blocks will be opening within the next few weeks and information regarding lodging will be available on our website at that time. All alumni should also be receiving a printed version of the registration form in their mailboxes in the coming weeks.

Please note that the nomination deadlines for Alumnus of the Year Award and the Young Professional Award have been extended to July 15, 2016. Nomination forms and criteria can be found at [connect.wvstateu.edu/homecoming](http://connect.wvstateu.edu/homecoming).



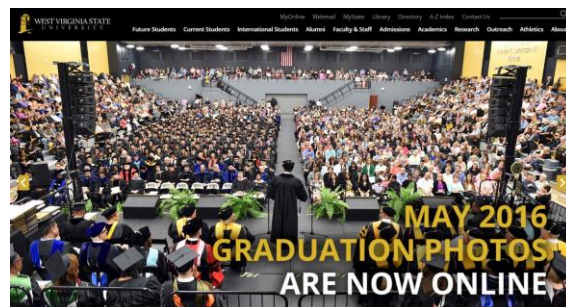
*Alumni: Be on the lookout for the 2016 Homecoming registration form! Forms will be mailed in the coming weeks to the addresses we have on file. Online registration is currently open.*

# New Look for WVSU Website

## Dynamic website provides new features, mobile responsive design

West Virginia State University's website, [wvstateu.edu](http://wvstateu.edu), has a new look! The website, which was relaunched in May, features a sleek new design that offers users a more personalized web experience. The website also offers a mobile responsive design that is easily accessible via smart phones, tablets and other screen types.

The Alumni & Friends online community at [connect.wvstateu.edu](http://connect.wvstateu.edu) will also undergo some broad changes in the coming months. We welcome your comments and suggestions about how our website can better serve you, our alumni and friends. Please email us at [alumni@wvstateu.edu](mailto:alumni@wvstateu.edu).



*Check out the University's new online look at [wvstateu.edu](http://wvstateu.edu)!*

## State Alumni Join Together for 9th Annual Atlanta HBCU Alliance Run/Walk

### WVSU reaches top 20 for participation rate

For the past several years, the Atlanta HBCU Alumni Alliance (AHBCUAA) has galvanized thousands of HBCU alumni, family and friends in support of health awareness and scholarship. This health initiative aspires to educate the community on living well, with regular exercise and proper nutrition, and draws attention to the barriers that many people in the area's communities face in making healthy choices. Proceeds support students who are interested in attending an HBCU in Health/Science fields of study.

Each year, the Atlanta Alumni Chapter of the WVSU National Alumni Association coordinates the WVSU team and helps increase the number of individuals supporting the University at this event. For the 2016 race, WVSU was proud to be acknowledged as one of the top 20 participating organizations with the greatest participation rate. Congratulations to the Atlanta Alumni Chapter for making this event a wonderful success! Director of Alumni Relations, Belinda Fuller, and Vice President for University Advancement and President of the WVSU Foundation, Pat Schumann, were also in attendance as representatives from the University.



*WVSU Alumni Team at Atlanta HBCU Alliance Run/Walk reaches top 20 for participation rate.*

# WVSU Extension Matters

## New initiative seeks to help state's small farmers

A new initiative by West Virginia State University (WVSU) Extension Service seeks to create longer-lasting fruits and vegetables by providing the state's small farmers with education and resources regarding cold chain technology.

Cold chain technology refers to the proper refrigeration and storage of crops during the time between harvest by the farmer and end purchase by the consumer to help ensure peak freshness. The need to prolong crop life from farm to table has become more visible as the local foods movement has gained momentum in West Virginia and nationwide.

WVSU is providing instruction to 20 farms during the pilot phase of the project, using a series of four workshops. Participants are learning about all aspects of care before harvest, after harvest, all the way to the consumer, using proper cold chain techniques. Teaming with the West Virginia National Guard, WVSU Extension Service is also helping repurpose many of the state's former armory sites into agricultural education and resource centers, complete with cold storage equipment and technology that will be readily available to small farmers.

For information about WVSU's cold chain initiative, contact Melissa Stewart at (304) 532-1670 or [williaml@wvstateu.edu](mailto:williaml@wvstateu.edu).

The cold chain initiative is supported by the USDA 1890 Capacity Building Grants Program Award No. 2014-38821-22397 and the 1890 Center for Excellence Award No. CSF-1609-W.



*"The local foods movement is being embraced all over, which is great," said WVSU Extension Agent Robin Turner. "But we have learned that many small-scale farmers lack the resources necessary to maximize the life of the crops they're growing. The old adage that one bad apple destroys the bunch, for instance, is true, and that surprises some people."*



WEST VIRGINIA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

Alumni Relations

100 East Hall, P.O. Box 1000 Institute, W.Va. 25112  
Phone: (304) 766.3387 Email: [alumni@wvstateu.edu](mailto:alumni@wvstateu.edu)